

Council NEWS

Edition 6, 2017

MAYOR'S MESSAGE - AIRPORT HANGAR LEASES

There has been a lot of talk about the hangar lease fees at the Benalla Airport recently.

Lease fees for the Council land which is used for aircraft hangars had a major review in May 2016, for the first time in 11 years.

Lease fees are now \$5/m² excluding GST and the State Government's Fire Services Levy. This increased the cost of a 12m x 24m hangar that holds four aircraft to \$360 per aircraft per year excluding GST and the State Government's Fire Services Levy. This is \$6.92 per week per aircraft.

The previous rate varied between hangars and averaged less than \$1/m², which was close to \$1.38 per week per aircraft.

We are operating in a tight financial environment and it is the responsibility of the Council to review lease rates, fees and charges.

The Council appreciates and values the recreational aviation activity at Benalla Airport. It is important to the town. At the same time, the Council cannot continue to subsidise the accommodation of privately owned aircraft.

As Councillors we have a duty and a responsibility to ensure a fair return to the ratepayers on the lease of all of the Council's assets.

This is a challenging financial environment given the impact of rate capping and the withdrawal of state and federal government funding programs.

The lease fees applied to the aircraft hangars have been more than generous for a very long time.

The previously low lease fees have meant little funding has been available to appropriately maintain and upgrade this community facility

for the safety of users. We are not in a position to let that situation continue.

In the 2016/17 financial year, the Airport cost ratepayers \$77,971. The Council collected \$10, 617 in lease fees resulting in a \$67,354 operating loss. We can't let this continue.

Cr Don Firth
Mayor



DEVENISH DRAINAGE

Following community consultation and a study of the Devenish drainage systems, project works to improve drainage and upgrade the culverts are nearing completion.

- 80% of the 106 box culverts have been installed

- 60% of the improved drain system is complete, including drainage upgrades through landowners' properties
- Box culvert installation is nearing completion.

Thank you for community feedback on the Council's draft 2017 Road Management Plan. The report will be presented to Council on 2 August 2017.



Tatong Moorngag Bridge

BRIDGE REPAIRS

The Tatong Moorngag Bridge has had the width of the shoulder extended with new guard rails and erosion control installed to provide a safer environment for motorists.

Project value: \$35,740



Webbs Road Bridge

The wooden bridge at Webbs Road has been removed and replaced with three sets of concrete pipe culverts, concrete wing walls and a steel guard rail.

Project value: \$43,400



Watchbox Creek Bridge

Watchbox Creek Bridge, Molyullah, has been replaced with a new bridge utilising the existing steel beams and precast concrete deck panels. A new concrete deck with a new guard rail and signage has been installed.

Project value: \$140,600

DID YOU KNOW?

The Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) provides a wide variety of services and facilities including:

- Free library membership
- Access to resources from over 100 libraries across Victoria
- Free Wi-Fi and computer access
- eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines
- Free borrowing of books, DVDs, magazines and newspapers
- Online family research resources
- Author visits and guest speakers
- Writing workshops
- Weekly storytime sessions
- School Holiday activities
- Board games and LEGO sets
- Weekly Sit and Knit sessions.

To find out more, go to www.benalla.vic.gov.au



Live4Life

The Live4Life Benalla initiative is part of a community-based pilot program aimed at improving mental health literacy and preventing youth suicide.

The Council is one of two rural communities selected to pilot the Live4Life program.

Launched in January this year, the initiative is delivered in partnership with the two Benalla secondary schools and the Flexible Learning Centre and eight local community organisations.

To find out more, go to www.live4life.org.au

The North East Small Business Festival TUESDAY 1 AUGUST 2017



The North East Small Business Festival launches on 1 August 2017 at Serendipity Cafe from 12pm to 1.30pm.

Benalla will host nine local events with more than 50 events being held across north east Victoria.

Bookings can be made through www.eventbrite.com.au

Running low on green bags?

You can pick up compost bags from the Council's Customer Service Centre.



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